

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 437

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Johnie Payton on her selection as Teacher of the Year by Wilson County Schools.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Johnie Payton is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Payton has recently been selected Teacher of the Year in Wilson County, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, she received her Bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and has taken additional courses at Cumberland University, Fisk University, Belmont University, and the University of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Payton has served with acumen and alacrity as a fifth and sixth grade General Music and Chorus teacher at Castle Heights Elementary School for six exemplary years; overall, she has taught Music for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, not content to leave her important work solely in the classroom, she is an active member of a number of professional associations, including the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the Lebanon Education Association, the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity, and the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Payton is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, she sets an excellent example for her students, as she serves her community and fellow citizens as a member of Civitan International, Tennesseans for the Arts, and the Advisory Committee of the Tennessee Arts Commission, and as a volunteer for the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, among a host of other organizations; and

WHEREAS, she has encouraged and nurtured countless students in their artistic aspirations as the Founder and Director of "The Rainbow Kids" Vocal Ensemble, Director of The Lebanon Children's Choir, and Co-Director of the Castle Heights Upper Elementary Drama Club; and

WHEREAS, during her stellar career spent in service to the education of our children, Ms. Payton has been recognized as Mid-Cumberland Region Teacher of the Year and Teacher of the Year at the Sam Houston School, and she has earned the City of Lebanon Mayor's Community Spirit Award of Honor and the National Teacher Award, presented by Lebanon Cable Vision; she has also earned other awards and honors too numerous to name; and

WHEREAS, in her precious spare time, she is a Staff Member for C.L.O.G., the National Clogging Association, and Founder and Director of "The Evermean Evergreen Cloggers"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Payton truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Johnie Payton truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Johnie Payton on being chosen as Teacher of the Year by Wilson County Schools, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.